

OUR CREATIVE FUTURE The Manifesto





hat do we want the future of the United Kingdom to look like?

This manifesto is Creative UK's answer to that deceptively simple question.

We have a vision for Our Creative Future – where the Cultural and Creative Industries can deliver their full potential, generating social and economic prosperity across our nation.

Where our world-leading outputs, across everything from fashion, craft, video games, museums, heritage, visual arts, advertising, createch, film, TV, live performance and many others, are celebrated.

And where real investment is made into a sector which, quite simply, makes life all the better for living. In return for that investment, we know that the Cultural and Creative Industries can drive UK-wide economic growth, create more jobs

Introduction from Caroline Norbury OBE.

CEO of Creative UK

and purposeful work, regenerate communities, boost regions growth and increase global exports.
This is not fairytale optimism. We have the data to back it up.

In 2023, the GVA contribution of the Cultural and Creative Industries was £125bn - representing almost 6% of the economy.¹ We create jobs at three times the UK average rate – employing 1.8 million people, with a further 700,000 self-employed workers across the sector.²

We export £46bn of goods and services annually, representing 14% of all UK services exports.³ Our sector is growing at a rate that exceeds the national average by more than a factor of three.

The next UK Government has a responsibility to power that growth engine. To stimulate creative work. To bring billions of value into our economy, and to champion a sector built on innovation and ideas.

Because behind those highgrowth figures is another story: one of resilience. Consider the economic and political challenges the Cultural and Creative Industries have faced in recent years, with cuts to cultural organisations, arts higher education and more.



From 2020 to 2022, the sector's GVA grew by over 19%⁴ and 175,000 new jobs were created,⁵ weathering economic turbulence.⁶

The potential of the creative economy, and its ability to grow even in difficult circumstances, is proof that there is real value in innovation. It's proof that we have the solutions.

Now imagine what could be achieved if supporting culture and human creativity was perceived as an investment opportunity, not a cost.

If the arts were celebrated as a growth driver, underpinning the wider economy.

If we prioritised creative education and creative skills, for life and work, so that the sector was more accessible to people from diverse backgrounds.

If we supported the development of creative solutions to shared challenges, such as the climate crisis and public health.

If public investment into researchled innovation and development funding was increased, and if financial resources from the private sector were easier to access and fit-for-purpose.

If we had a place-based approach to funding and fostering creativity, whilst at the same time ensuring it was a national priority. Imagine if it wasn't our resilience that was tested – but our potential.

At Creative UK, we believe that the Future Economy is a Creative Economy.

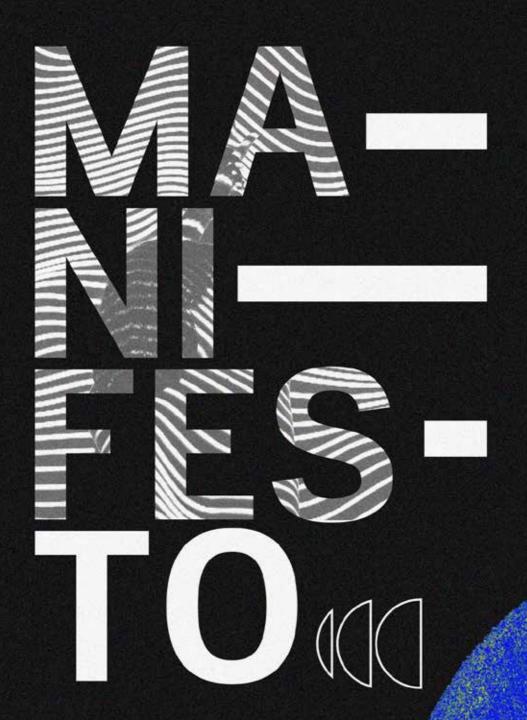
It's crucial that our next UK Government shares

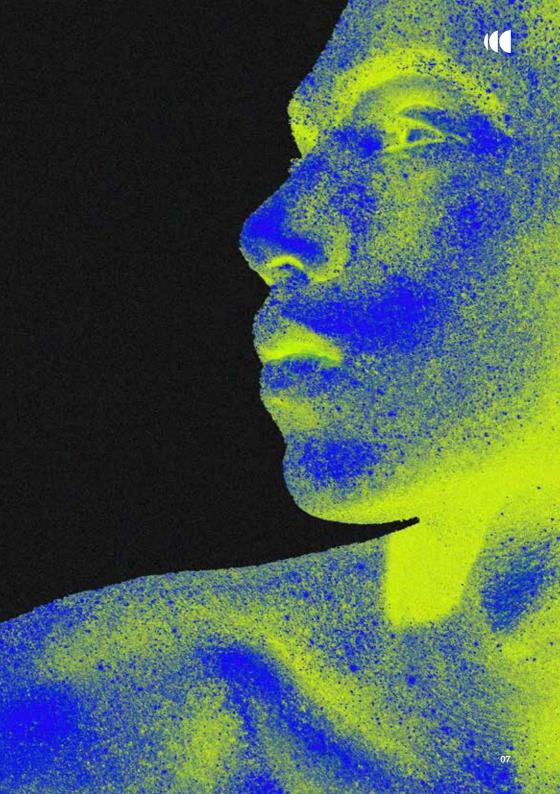


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Executive Summary

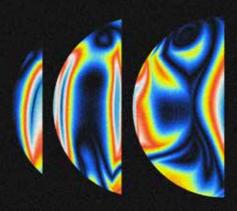
The Cultural and Creative Industries are key to social and economic prosperity in the United Kingdom.

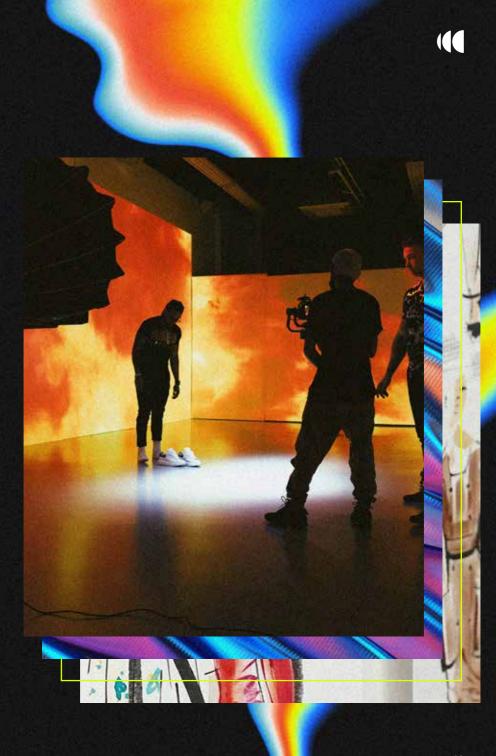
Now is the time for radical new action. The creative economy creates jobs and purposeful work when wider employment is stagnating. It drives economic growth against a general backdrop of decline. And on the world stage, our musicians, actors, directors, producers, developers, writers, designers, architects and so many others shine bright.

We're proud of the contributions our sector makes to the country - but we're at a tipping point. Arts funding is in decline. Institutions up and down the UK are fighting for survival. Creative businesses don't have access to the finance they need.

Publicly funded culture and the Creative Industries are dynamically interdependent: they feed one another, and support growth across many other sectors. But for too long, both have been undercapitalised.

Now is the time to secure Our Creative Future.





Our Priorities

Grow the workforce of tomorrow by prioritising creative skills and education.

To achieve the UK Government target of one million new jobs by 2030, a culture-rich education - complete with skills-focussed careers guidance - should be available to young people from all backgrounds. It's the only way to ensure a diverse, skilled talent pool for the future.

75% of 18-25

year-olds want to work in creative

sectors, but

more than 42%

say it's too hard to break in. 7

22% of A Level entries

in 2022/23 came from creative

subjects,8 and creative degrees

only made up 9%

of domestic undergraduate

applications.9

Unleash creative freelancers' potential to build more sustainable careers by modelling better ways of working.

Strengthening protections for freelancers and appointing a Freelancing Commissioner will provide better support for people who work in this way. If we get this right, it will serve as a blueprint for more successful UK-wide self-employment.

There are 1.9 million

self-employed workers

in the UK, contributing

£126bn to the economy. 10

Self-employed workers make up 28%

of the Cultural and Creative

Industries workforce in the UK,

compared to 14%

of the wider UK workforce.11

Make the UK the best place in the world to build and retain creative talent and their businesses. Return the arts share of National Lottery funds to 25% and create and maintain genuinely competitive fiscal reliefs and incentives.

We need an ambitious and resilient new approach to financing the Cultural and Creative Industries.

Over 70%

of creative businesses report

not having enough finance - and

62% believe their growth is

restricted by lack of funding.12



Facilitate innovation by increasing investment in research and development funding, and supporting new products, services and intellectual property.

Real growth comes when companies and organisations can scale through testing and developing new ideas.

The Cultural and Creative

Industries account for

6% ¹³ of the UK's GVA,

but receive 1%

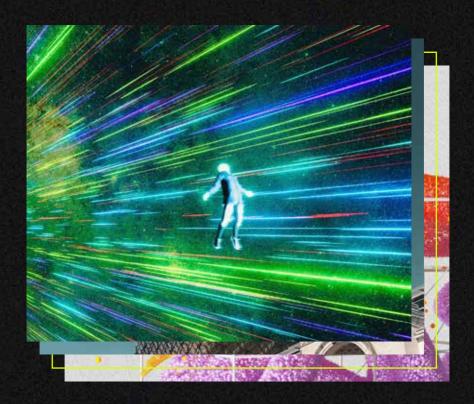
of research funds.14

An estimated

70-80% of the value

of UK businesses is found in

intangible assets, including IP.15





Enable innovation and provide security for creatives by protecting Intellectual Property (IP) in the age of Artificial Intelligence (AI).

There is a positive future for AI and human creativity, with both working in tandem to help the UK lead the way in innovation. But IP rights need to be central to technology development and application. IP is the lifeblood of the sector – and the UK Government must uphold our existing gold-standard framework.

83% of creatives

are already using Al ¹⁶ – but

89% of artists

want to see greater UK Government

protection of their work.17

Strengthen the UK's standing on the world stage by supporting trade and exports.

To truly be a global creative leader, we need easy movement of people, goods and services – including the ability to bring in talent from anywhere in the world on a freelancing basis.

In 2021, the Cultural and Creative

Industries accounted for

over 14%

of all UK exports in services

- as well as

£9.14bn in goods.18



The Future of Skills and Education

With the right support, it's estimated that the Cultural and Creative Industries could create an additional one million new jobs across the UK by 2030. 19 To meet this target, we need to invest in the workforce of tomorrow and strengthen creative representation in schools, further education and higher education.

This means reviewing the curriculum, reprioritising creative subjects and increasing funding to schools for creative programmes.

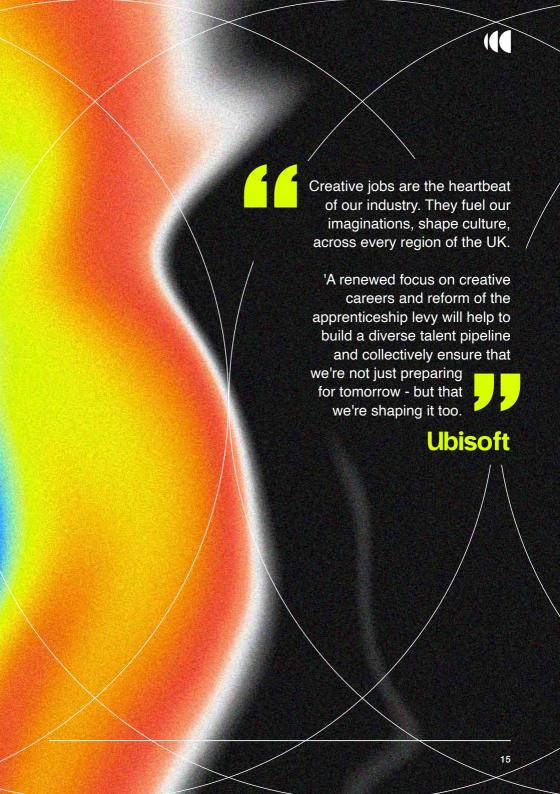
It means changing accountability frameworks, and including creative and cognitive skills as a metric by which educational excellence and outcomes are measured.

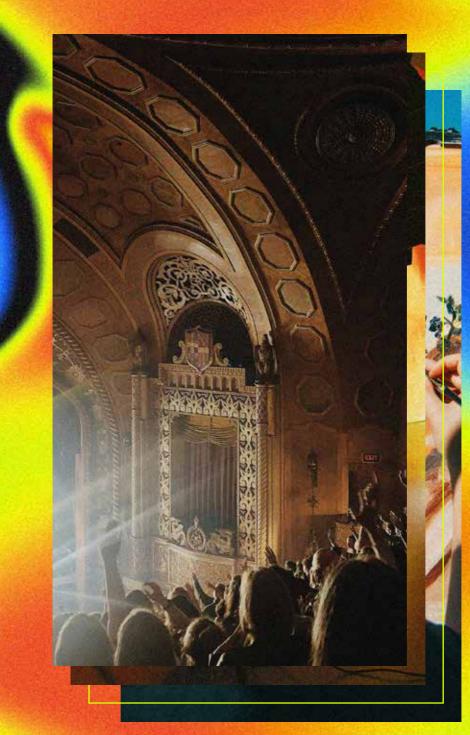
And it means increasing the number of approved industry-led training courses such as apprenticeships and Skills Bootcamps, and ensuring the Apprenticeship Levy's accessible, affordable qualifications work well for industry, education, employees and freelancers alike.

It's vital that, in addition to being skilled, the workforce of tomorrow is diverse. We need to collectively support access for people from all backgrounds so that social mobility accelerates.

All school pupils should be provided with subsidised cultural experiences – such as visits to museums, theatres, heritage sites, galleries, concerts and performances – at least once a year, and have regular access to libraries.

We need a long-term, public-facing campaign to change attitudes and perceptions about creativity, and creative careers. Everyone is creative.







The National Theatre is the largest employer in the not-for-profit theatre sector, and a skills incubator for the entire creative industries.

'For decades, we have been focused on turbo-charging creative skills and professional development. Now we want to do more. More opportunities to train our future workforce and address the growing skills shortage are urgently needed. We know there are still those who are less represented in our sector. We know there is talent we are not reaching.

'To help address this, we are launching a new National Theatre Skills Centre this year, which will offer more resources, training and professional development opportunities to boost specialist skills across all areas of theatre, with opportunities available nationwide from entry-level to mid-career.

'We know there is much more we can do, in collaboration with our partners across the sector. With the right support, we can train a future-fit workforce that can continue to be of benefit to the entire creative industries.

National Theatre

Apprenticeship programmes are widely recognised within the advertising industry as a unique and valuable tool for increasing the diversity of talent - geographically, ethnically, and socially. They also diversify skills within a business, from new hires to upskilling existing employees.

'Not only are apprenticeships an effective means of recruiting, but they can have dramatic effects on retention: 80% of employers reported improved retention rates due to apprenticeship schemes.

'Fundamentally, we need to make sure that our people are looked after in the long run, and that their careers are a key priority. Apprenticeships and upskilling programmes are key to letting employees know that they are truly valued.

'That's why we're calling on Government to reform the Apprenticeship Levy, by giving companies greater flexibility in how they spend the levy money. For example, spending the money on industry training and qualifications, not just on approved training providers, thus providing more options. Levy reform would greatly improve uptake of apprenticeships in our industry.

The Advertising Association



The Future of Freelancing

Freelancers are the backbone of the Cultural and Creative Industries. It's vital that the UK Government, industry and freelancers come together on a new model, providing people who work in this way with the right support to build sustainable careers. This includes a consistent focus and commitment on diversifying our workforce.

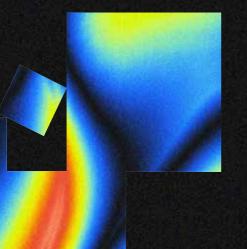
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Assessment of key protections and support for the self-employed should result in action on priorities such as sick pay, shared parental leave and pensions, among other areas.

Linking freelancers' tax account to a hybrid pension savings scheme, with an opt out option, will offer more security, and help freelancers prepare for the future.

Late payment of invoices should be tackled, by encouraging adoption of the Prompt Payment Code where existing late payment agreements aren't in place.

And to keep these issues at the heart of the UK Government decision-making process, we're calling for a Freelancing Commissioner, alongside review of Ministerial responsibilities for the self-employed.





"We hear a lot from politicians about the incredible value - social, cultural and economical - of the UK's creative industries. Yet, too often, the workers behind this success are an afterthought. Freelancers have consistently fallen through the gaps of government support schemes - we saw this no more clearly and devastatingly than during the pandemic.

Government interventions and policies often rightly focus on meeting the needs of creative businesses, but alongside this a future government must better scrutinise the needs of the freelance workforce as a critical part of the interdependent ecosystem of the creative industries. Appointing a Freelancing Commissioner who will work with unions to advocate for freelancers, would be a welcome move.

Freelancing brings untold benefits, to our cultural and creative output and to the economy, but the current model puts all the burdens on the worker. Many creative freelancers continue to battle unsustainable working hours, precarious employment and associated challenges, and many are leaving the sector, burnt out, feeling unsupported, and unable to sustain a career in the industry they love.

'Creative workers are also being curtailed by restrictions on their movements; to fully unleash the potential of UK creative skills and ensure the UK is a destination for skilled workers from all over the world, a future government must work with industry and unions to address these challenges.

'If we can better look after and advocate for the freelance workforce, the potential knock-on benefits for the creative industries and our economy are huge - improving workers' lives through provisions such as better access to flexible working or parental leave, and helping retain skilled workers.

'Ultimately, you cannot have a thriving creative sector without a thriving workforce. We heartily endorse a new approach to freelancing that better supports creative workers to enter, develop and sustain careers in the sector, and we welcome Creative UK's collaborative work in bringing the sector together to agree these shared manifesto aims.'

BECTU





The Future of Investment

The decline in public funding, and the issues around how we invest in infrastructure, are having a serious impact on the cultural sector. Many museums, festivals, galleries, theatres, venues, arts centres and more are fighting for survival.

As a starting point, funding for the arts via the National Lottery should be restored to the original 25% share, to negate the 5% cut in 2011.

Publicly funded arts and culture are a crucible of innovation and drive commercial growth. An ambitious and resilient approach to sustainable finance is needed, to attract greater private and philanthropic investment. To stimulate this, we propose establishing a Creativity Bank. This would be a wholesale facility offering access to money, knowledge, tools and resources from a range of partners, including UK Government, private capital, regional and local authorities and sector experts. Its creation would incentivise new partnerships and create real long-term growth.

Fiscal conditions should remain competitive to ensure we attract and retain talent. To this end, sector tax reliefs must be genuinely competitive, IR35 should be scrapped, and VAT removed from cultural experiences.

We also need robust data which gives insight into levels of available funding and its sources, going into and across the Cultural and Creative Industries. This will help to better direct public investment, and to attract more private and philanthropic investment in turn.





There have been two main pillars to my lifelong career in games: creativity and finance. On the surface, they might not appear to have much in common. But having co-founded Games Workshop, Fighting Fantasy, Eidos Interactive, and Hiro Capital, as well as being Chair of Sumo Group plc - I have seen firsthand how the two can be inextricably linked.

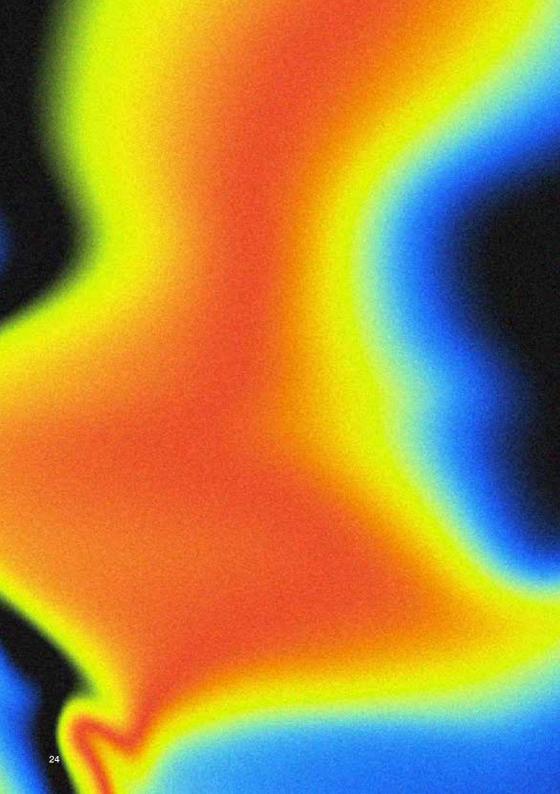
'Creative businesses - whether games studios developing blockbuster titles or creative content in whatever form have high growth potential if their value is understood and the right finance is available. When Steve Jackson and I first went to our bank manager to get a loan for Games Workshop in the 1970s, the idea of funding a games company was unimaginable. Today, Games Workshop Group plc, owners of Warhammer, has a market cap of \$4,4bn.

'We need ways to support businesses which create and exploit Intellectual Property. Their assets might be intangible but their potential to scale can be enormous with resultant uplift

fall into this category. And we need a patient approach to long-term growth which connects the dots between culture. creativity, R&D, IP, funding, investment and commercial success. It is vital to support creators to enable them to scale and travel further up the value chain of IP ownership to generate significant revenues and taxable income in the UK before selling out to global players.

'A Creativity Bank would enable the money to meet the makers, and help put the right kinds of finance and support into the right creative businesses. I would call on any future UK Government to explore this idea, and kickstart some new, innovative thinking and products in the financial sector.

Sir lan Livingstone Chair, Hiro Capital





In a world where innovation is increasingly essential to the survival of arts and culture, embracing a more creative approach to arts funding and finance is also critical to success.

'Our major research study, Time To Act, explores the difference that Shakespeare's work and RSC teaching approaches make to the language development and social and emotional development of children and young people. The significance of the results has led the RSC to work alongside Arts & Culture Finance (by nesta). Together, we created an outcomes framework enabling us to pilot a new approach to funding. The model is based around social impact measures and, using the framework, relies on investors committing to payments if preagreed impact targets are met.

'This is new territory for the RSC, and relatively new for the performing arts sector in the UK. It raises lots of questions, but with a real-terms decline in public investment and shifting priorities in philanthropic giving, we need new and different ways to capture the value of the brilliant work that takes place across the arts and culture sector. That requires us to create radical and sustainable solutions to ensure the work of the sector is protected for generations to come. A strong and supported cultural sector creates profound, measurable social impact and economic benefit to the communities in which it exists we think a social impact approach could form an important part of the future landscape of funding arts and culture.

> Royal Shakespeare Company



The Future of Innovation

Organisations scale when given the space to develop and test new ideas. To stimulate growth and support innovation, the UK Government should double public research & development (R&D) investment in the Cultural and Creative Industries by way of a national programme, making available small amounts of proof of concept and seed-corn funding.

This will support the creation of new intellectual property, products and services in the UK and will lead to a multiplier effect, catalysing greater private investment in the sector.

Higher Education has a vital role to play in our future innovation, and as such, research partnerships between industry and universities should be supported.

The definition of R&D tax credits should also be broadened, to include arts, humanities and social sciences research. We must ensure they work for SMEs, so that small companies are also incentivised to innovate.

A long-term funding commitment to R&D, and to the UK's world-leading, specialist institutions, will help the UK cement its position as an innovative global powerhouse.

'This will allow us to lead the way in creative talent exports across film, art, music and fashion, nurturing the next generation of Ridley Scotts, Gerry McGoverns, Asif Kapadias, Jade Fadoutumi, Kanneh-Masons, and Claire Waight-Kellers.

Jade Fadojutimi



Artificial Intelligence (AI) is being utilised by many in the creative sector – and there is a future where, together, human creativity and AI can thrive.

05

But to make this workable, the UK's gold-standard Intellectual Property (IP) and copyright regime must be maintained and enforced.

IP is the bedrock of the Cultural and Creative Industries and protects novel ideas, products and services underpinning our creative economy – driving income and recognition for creators in our sector and many others.

When it comes to training models and data and how creative works are used and reproduced by Al developers, we need explicit UK Government policy in place on transparency, consent, recognition and remuneration.

The UK must set the standard for the rest of the world and make concerted efforts with UK allies to establish international minimum standards in this regard.

Getting this right brings mutual benefits to everyone.



The UK is a world leader in music, being the third largest recorded music market globally and the second biggest exporter of recorded music. This success is thanks in part to our gold standard Intellectual Property framework, which provides music companies with confidence to invest and rewards creators for their work.

Without it, the creative industries cannot continue to bring joy to

the many, nor create jobs and contribute to the UK economy. It's therefore vital that we protect these hard-fought for rights, particularly in a changing landscape with new technological advances, such as Generative-AI.

'We welcome Creative UK's manifesto which promotes and strongly recognises the crucial role of Intellectual Property as a fundamental factor for

the continued success of our industries.





The Future of Our Global Power

The UK is renowned all over the world as a creative powerhouse. But if we are to continue to make international impact, we need easy movement of people, goods and services. Our artists need access to tour, and our venues should be attractive to the world's best talent.

06

A Cultural Touring Agreement with the European Union (EU) would support this. The UK and Member States should have a reciprocal freedom of movement agreement for all creatives whose work require short-term travel within the EU.

The UK Government must also ensure that all bilateral and trade agreements with other countries protect intellectual property rights and cultural diversity.

Increased support for the British Council would strengthen the UK's leadership in the global creative economy.

It's also important that we rejoin vital programmes for the Cultural

and Creative Industries, including Erasmus, Creative Europe (CULTURE and MEDIA strands) and the Eurimages scheme of the Council of Europe.



Ease of movement is integral to the success of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in terms of the internationalism on our stages, diversity in the offer to those who come from around the world to find shows and talent from this global performing arts marketplace. As we move towards more sustainable models of working and touring, this ease of movement with our closest neighbours in Europe will be more important than ever.

'Ensuring an effectively managed and easily navigated/communicated visa process is key to maximising accessibility for international artists, arts industry and media. Two incidents in 2023 highlight the importance of clear and effective visa processes - one where visa processing issues led to around £50k additional costs to a company, and another where inconsistencies in process led to a show cancellation and a company facing possible bankruptcy. Each participant and company coming to the Fringe manages their own travel arrangements.

'Without ease of movement for those individuals, the festival will lose its diversity of participation and its global appeal and world-leading position. The knockon effect of which would be disastrous for the Fringe and the unique platform it currently provides for

international and UK artists.

The Edinburgh Festival Fringe





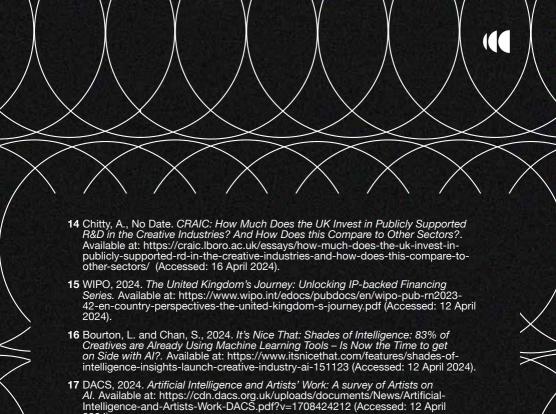
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